

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00742 151905Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
ACDA-07 /078 W
-----151932Z 044062 /53

R 151518Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4222
AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
CINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR
HQ IV TRANS. BRIG, OBERURSEL
USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0742

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS
CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD
CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-COC & AEAAG-AP

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, GW, UR, US, FR, BR
SUBJECT: DELAY OF U.S. FREIGHT TRAIN AT POTSDAM MARCH 9

1. ON MARCH 9, A U.S. FREIGHT TRAIN BOUND FOR BERLIN
WAS DELAYED ONE HOUR AND FIFTY-TWO MINUTES AT POTSDAM,
GDR. NO EXPLANATION WAS OFFERED, AND OUR TRAIN
COMMANDER'S REQUEST TO SEE A SOVIET OFFICER WAS NOT
HONORED. AT SAME TIME, TWO EAST GERMAN SECURITY GUARDS
INTERPOSED THEMSELVES IN TRAIN OPERATIONS BY ASKING
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TRAIN COMMANDER TO TURN OFF TRAIN SPOTLIGHTS.

2. THIS IS FIRST PROLONGED DELAY WEHAVE EXPERIENCED
SINCE WE INFORMED REICHSBAHN JANUARY 31 THAT TARIFF
INCREASE WAS MATTER SOLELY FOR SOVIET-ALLIED AUTHORITIES.

3. US TRAIN COMMANDER MARCH 12 READ AND LEFT BEHIND

FOLLOWING STATEMENT WITH SOVIET DUTY OFFICER AT

MARIENBORN. BEGIN TEXT:

MY AUTHORITIES HAVE INSTRUCTED ME TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

ON MARCH 9, 1977, U.S. TRAIN NUMBER 44471 WAS DELAYED ONE HOUR AND FIFTY-TWO MINUTES (FROM 0318 TO 0510 HOURS) AT POTSDAM WHILE ON ITS WAY TO BERLIN. THE U.S. TRAIN COMMANDER'S REQUEST TO SEE A SOVIET OFFICER CONCERNING THE DELAY WAS NOT HONORED. MOREOVER, EAST GERMAN GUARDS SOUGHT TO DEAL WITH THE U.S. TRAIN COMMANDER, THEREBY INTRUDING THEMSELVES INTO WHAT IS STRICTLY A MATTER FOR THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES. IN VIEW OF THE SOLE SOVIET RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSURING UNHINDERED ALLIED ACCESS TO AND FROM BERLIN, WE EXPECT THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES WILL TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT SUCH DELAYS IN THE FUTURE. SHOULD THERE BE A REASONABLE EXPLANATION FOR THE DELAY, WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR IT. IN ADDITION WE TRUST THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES WILL SEE TO IT THAT GERMAN PERSONNEL DO NOT AGAIN INTERFERE IN SOVIET-US MATTERS AS THEY SOUGHT TO DO. END TEXT.

A SOVIET DUTY OFFICER CALLED HIS COMMANDER, WHO ADVISED THAT ISSUE WAS ONE FOR "EMBASSIES". HE MADE NO FURTHER COMMENT AND SUBJECT WAS DROPPED.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT INCLINED TO BRING UP THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT WITH SOVIET EMBASSY UNLESS LENGTHY DELAYS OR GDR INTRUSION INTO TRAIN OPERATIONS BECOME A PATTERN.

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5. USCOB CONCURS. GEORGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HARASSMENT, ROLLING STOCK, ALLEGATIONS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USBERL00742
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770089-0097
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770357/aaaabxug.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b3fc80b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3098861
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DELAY OF U.S. FREIGHT TRAIN AT POTSDAM MARCH 9
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GC, GE, UR, US, FR, BR
To: BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b3fc80b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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